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9 June to 3 July 2003
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the Report of the Committee on its forty-third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 22
Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 17th meeting, on 20 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 22)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 22 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposals under section 22. It was stated that the programme of work reflected the goals of the Millennium Declaration and the reform programme endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300. Satisfaction was expressed with the results-based format and specific and well-defined expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and outputs. Satisfaction was also expressed with the rationalization of the number of outputs in 2002-2003, resulting in a 15 per cent reduction and a further 12 per cent reduction in 2004-2005. It was also noted that further steps, in that direction, should be taken in 2004-2005.

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4. The view was expressed that the programme of work included very important areas, such as the digital divide and economic cooperation in managing globalization. The integration of industry and agriculture as well as energy and water activities to take advantage of synergies was welcomed.

5. The view was expressed that ESCWA should be involved in the preparation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) of the Arab Human Development report and that UNDP should be encouraged to seek the cooperation of ESCWA in that respect.

6. Concern was expressed with the perceived lack of coordination between the regional commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the possible duplication of work.

7. The view was expressed that ESCWA electronic publications should be made available in a hard-copy format. The intention of ESCWA to issue all its publications in 2004-2005 also in the Arabic language was welcomed.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 22, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the modifications that appear below as well as the provisions in the foreword and introduction.**

9. **The Committee emphasized the need for programme managers of this section to comply with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.**

10. **The Committee reiterated that the Secretary-General should submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, the report requested in its resolution 57/283 B.**